



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

November-December, 2011 Monthly Newsletter

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Editors Note: Apologies for combining November and December Newsletters; recall election activities have taken priority. Nonetheless, this issue is chock full of news, events, opinion, amusement and irony. Please read on.

Bill P.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

Dec 8 **Open Discussion Forum, Committee meetings, and Executive Board meeting are cancelled to allow focus on recall effort.**

Dec 15 **DPDC monthly membership meeting, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Jeremy Cohen, Regional Director of the Walker Recall Campaign will provide an update on recall progress. (Note the changed date due to the holidays)**

Digest of Contents

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- **Message from the Chair:** Chair Walker gives an exciting update on Recall activities and results.
- **Listing of "Satellite" recall sites in Door and Kewaunee Counties.**

Page 3: Review of the Pie Party, including a precis of remarks from our two guests, Barbara Lawton and Jamie Wall.

Page 4:

- **Recall in poetry.** The opening salvo at the Pie Party.
- **A Constitutional amendment?** A grassroots movement to overturn *Citizens United*.

Page 5: Past Co-Chair Estella Lauter discusses the uneasy relationship between the media and OWS.

Page 6: Membership renewal time for many. Check the body of the email to which the newsletter is attached to see if your membership is due to expire.

Thanks to John Perloff and Mynn Lanphier



Message from the Chair:
Recall Update from Door County

I can't say often enough...This is truly a game changing time in the life of the State of Wisconsin. What is happening in Door County is mirrored in every corner of the State!



Chair Allin Walker

Signatures are being gathered by the thousands by hundreds of circulators; offices and staff are overwhelmed by the lines of people wanting to sign the petition; educators, health care providers, artists, parents, seniors, students, advocates for the disabled, union members, county workers, Republicans and Independents...all are responding to the opportunity to say "NO THANK YOU" to the radical destructive Scott Walker regime.

Great things are happening throughout NE Wisconsin thanks to the field staff efforts of Crystal in Manitowoc, Evan in Green Bay and Jeremy in Waukesha.

In Door County as of Friday, December 9, we have turned in to Madison 297 petition sheets with 2380 signatures; we have, at least, 188 people circulating petitions plus those who have downloaded petitions on their own and those circulating petitions for the more than 70 organizations active in the campaign.

We have 37 office volunteers including 5 data entry people; with 20 satellite sites throughout the peninsula, and we've made over 500 calls to people who wanted to be notified when and where they could sign a RECALL petition.

So, in just over three weeks, we are about 60% of the way to our goal of 4,000 signatures by January 10.

We are fighting \$30 million being spent against us with an "army" of volunteers. It will get harder so we need circulators to constantly turn in your filled petitions (at the satellite sites is fine). Please turn in all signed petitions by next Thursday, December 15, to give us a half-way count.

We need to have all 7 phones constantly in use (so far our best day was 5). We need, at least, 50 more circulators willing to get 20 or more signatures.

Many days the office (62 S. 3rd Ave.) is open 10-8 but for sure 3-7 on weekdays and 12-4 on weekends. the phone is 1-920-964-2727.

The prize for most signatures so far goes to Scott Steeb who has turned in 80.

Where Can I Sign and/or Circulate?
Recall "Satellite" Sites

MAIN RECALL OFFICE:

Democratic Party of Door County Office
 62 S. 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay
 Hours: Weekdays 3-7, Sat-Sun 12-4

"SATELLITE" SITES:

To **sign** a petition, please call ahead.
 To **circulate** petitions call the Main Office,
 1-920-964-2727 for information and supplies.

Baileys Harbor -

Francha Barnard - 920-839-2829
 Margaret Culberson - 920-498-8214

Brussels -

Terry Bobbe – 920-825-1369

Clay Banks -

Ann Hippensteel - 920-743-3337

Egg Harbor -

Allin Walker & Margaret Lockwood - 920-868-2912
 Kathy at Green 'n Grains - 920-868-9999

Ellison Bay –

Marilyn & Phil Hansotia - 920-854-9360
 Donna & William Henning - 920-854-7981
 Judith Hirschmiller - 920-421-2216

Ephraim –

Kate Houston - 920-854-9484

Fish Creek –

Wayne Kudick - 920-868-2262
 Estella Lauter - 920-839-2741

Forestville –

Tom Mueller - 920-856-6258
 Kimberly Ploeger - 920-412-1196

Kewaunee County -

Mimi Dobbins - 920-388-4178
 Also see "Recall Walker-Kewaunee Events"
 on the DPDC website, www.DoorCountyDems.org

Sister Bay -

Ron Lapin - 920-854-4651

Sturgeon Bay City -

Janet Mickelson - 920-743-3584

Sturgeon Bay Town -

Harry & Judy Porter - 920-743-2114

Washington Island -

Kirby & Margaret Foss - 920-847-2293

Pie Party: Food, Fun and Serious Thoughts from Barbara Lawton and Jamie Wall

The 5th annual DPDC Pie Party provided tasty desserts to the 60 Democrats and friends who came for food, fun and fellowship.

As usual, there was a delectable assortment of pies, ice cream and coffee; more than we could consume, though a number of people made valiant efforts.

The event was well organized, with attractive table decorations, colorful display of individual pie slices, and elegant bakery pies for our “bag raffle”. Thanks and plaudits go to Francha Barnard and her committee including Ruth Kelsen, Estella Lauter, Ginny Olson, Sue and Mike Spitz, Barb and Bill Perloff, and the many Executive Board members who helped.

The main attraction of the evening was Barbara Lawton, former Wisconsin Lt. Governor, who graciously agreed to share her thoughts about the current political scene.



Barbara Lawton

The tone of her remarks was of deep concern for the health of our civil society. She bemoaned the fact that wealth is now concentrated in a few hands who are focused on breaking down the public institutions on which democracy depends, and putting these in private hands. She cited specifically the education system which, she said, was being destroyed by the Walker regime.

Ms. Lawton noted that the “Occupy Wall Street” movement and other energetic efforts have been spawned by the unsettled state and malaise created by the current political scene.

She identified the most important specific issue at present is campaign finance reform, especially in view of the *Citizens United* decision of the Supreme Court (see the article on page 5).

Governance is an act of collective imagination that requires us to act with dignity as candidates and as a Party. She said it is essential to have a productive tension to keep democracy strong. To help achieve this, she espoused the idea of forums, open to all, to discuss the issues of the day. [*Ed. comment.* The DPDC has been conducting such open forums for the past year].

Barbara challenged us to be visionary, not reactionary, and as she always does, gave us much to ponder and act upon.



Serving Pies

A bonus for the Democratic crowd was a brief presentation by Jamie Wall, Democratic candidate in the 2012 election for the 8th Congressional district seat currently held by Reid Ribble.

Jamie grew up on a dairy farm in Northeast Wisconsin, attended UW-Madison, and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University.

He has been a business consultant, helping businesses solve problems for most of his career, except for the early years of the Doyle administration, when he was head of State Economic Development programs.



Jamie Wall

Jamie spoke energetically about the need for change from congress members squabbling with each other instead of working to solve

the critical problems of our time. He promised to use his business experience to work toward solutions, not deadlock.

He applauded the President’s “Jobs Bill” and said he would work to bring jobs back to Wisconsin. He was optimistic about the campaign, and about his ability to resonate with the voters of NE Wisconsin. He certainly resonated with the crowd in attendance.

We expect to hear much more from Jamie as the campaign unfolds.

Recall in Poetry

Editor's Note: It our custom to open each meeting with an original poem. The following was the anonymous offering for the Pie Party.

Fighting Bob LaFollette lies a-groanin' in his grave.
 Brother Phil LaFollette lies a-sobbin' in his grave.
 Gaylord Nelson lies a-moanin' in his grave.
 They can't believe what they hear.

Old Joe McCarthy lies a-laughin' in his grave.
 All the John Birchers are a-dancin' on their graves.
 Old Tommy Thomson goes a-smilin' down the street
 as he heads for a party at the Koch's.

The Koch Brothers are happy with their protégé,
 Walker follows their orders to a tee.
 The Assembly and the Senate are in lockstep with
 the Gov.
 The state's goin' to hell in a basket.

They're out to ruin the unions
 and to squeeze the middle class
 with tax breaks for the corporate world
 while schools and human resources get the ax.

Soooooooo.....

We must work to win the recall.
 We must work to win the recall.
 We must work to win the recall.
 It's s the most important work that we can do!

Some Contrast! →



By Pat Bagley, The Salt Lake Tribune, Cagle Cartoons

A Constitutional Amendment to Reverse Citizens United?

“Public Citizen”, a well-established citizens advocacy group, and several other organizations have started promoting a constitutional amendment that would reverse the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United.

That decision gives corporations the right to donate unlimited funds to influence political campaigns by affording them the same rights as people, and identifying their contributions as “free speech”.

Last month, Public Citizen helped organize 200 meetings in 42 states to begin the process of reversing the effects of this decision.

Addressing the groups, Sen. Bernie Sanders said “...[C]orporations are not people, should not be treated as if they were people, and ... do not have a first amendment right of free speech to spend as much money as they want on campaigns. ...Make no mistake: the Citizens United ruling has radically changed our democracy - further tilting the balance of power toward the rich and corporate America.”

To learn more about Public Citizen and the prospects of a Constitutional amendment, check out their website: <http://www.citizenvox.org/>.



“This country does in fact have a serious deficit problem. But the reality is that the deficit was caused by two wars — unpaid for. It was caused by huge tax breaks for the wealthiest people in this country. It was caused by a recession as result of the greed, recklessness and illegal behavior on Wall Street. And if those are the causes of the deficit, I will be damned if we're going to balance the budget on backs of the elderly, the sick, the children, and the poor. That's wrong.” -- Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Senate Budget Committee, 11-18-2011

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Occupy Wall Street (OWS) and the Media**

Ever since Rhodes Scholar Bill Clinton came on the national political scene, media pundits have been ragging on Democratic Party candidates for being “policy wonks” with no regard for the ordinary voter, whom they say simply doesn’t care about policy as much as s/he cares about values or emotions.

**Estella Lauter**

Along comes the OWS movement that focuses on values and all of a sudden the mainstream media turns: protest may be an American right, but isn’t it *dangerous* that OWS doesn’t make *policy statements*; therefore the movement could be taken over by *anyone* (even the “old left,” code for “communists”) as soon as winter weather sets in and only the diehards remain on the streets.

This kind of comment came from *The New Yorker* (Nov. 7, “Talk of the Town”), so it should be no surprise that last week, the *NY Post* went all out against the demonstrators in Zucotti Park.

The mayors of other liberal cities such as Oakland and Portland have also been flummoxed by this non-violent movement that insists on making its decisions by discussion and consensus (in a reprise of US government difficulties in the 1830s with Treaty negotiations). Establishment spokesmen prefer air-conditioned protest movements in convention centers—like the 2010 Tea Party knock-off.

On the other hand, the progressive media presents OWS regulars who have been in the Park for two months as the heroes we have been waiting for to save the middle class.

And it is true, as the editors of *The Nation* say, that these protesters, many of whom are young professionals, have succeeded as no one else has in showing that our democracy had failed to address “the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression...[because] our politicians are primarily answerable to the 1 percent who fund their campaigns” (Nov. 14, p. 18).

Signs like the one in Chicago that read “I can’t afford a lobbyist. I am the 99%,” or in LA, “Trickledown made us pee-ons,” or in NY, “One day the poor will have nothing left to eat but the rich” have finally made the point that the current level of inequality here and abroad is morally and politically unacceptable. Once consciousness is raised, it is difficult to behave as if “all’s right with the world.”

The problem with the heroic narrative, however, is that the 99% cannot expect the protesters to carry the whole burden by sitting in AND making legislative demands.

As Bill Clinton said in Rochester last month (see the DPDC October newsletter), Americans have no shortage of relevant experience and ideas that have worked in the past for solving the economic problems we are facing.

Our most serious problem is that our institutions no longer seek to solve problems in a rational way for the good of our citizens; rather they exist to perpetuate the power of those who hold office. Everything depends on what “we the people” DO with this impetus for equality.

As the authors of a list of “Ten Ways the Occupy Movement Changes Everything”, (*YES Magazine*, Nov. 10, 2011, [link](#)) it is up to the 99% to use the space the Occupy movement has opened up to reclaim the power we hold, as members of a democracy, by entering into the discussion it has begun about how to free ourselves and our political system from corporate dominance.

The authors say, “The solution is not to starve government or impose harsh austerity measures that further harm middle-class and poor people already reeling from a bad economy. ...A functioning democracy is our best shot at addressing critical social, environmental and economic crises.”

We do not have a functioning democracy. It has been bought-out. We will have to buy it back with the hard work of a much more active kind of participation.

In addition to fuming about the protesters’ appearance, their reluctance to streamline the issues of inequality into a single set of demands, and their use of “direct democracy” to make decisions, pundits on both the left and right have accused them of “anarchy.” But the reports that have come from direct observation at the various “Occupy” sites do not support this complaint.

“Anarchy” means “disorder, or lack of government in a society.” Those who have gathered in various public places around the country in this movement, however, are devoting virtually full time to discussion of how to live together in a public space in an orderly, equitable, just and caring way. “Anarchism,” or the doctrine that all government and laws should be abolished, has much more in common with the tea party movement of 2010 than with OWS.

(Continued on page 6)

Occupy Wall Street and the Media, Continued from Page 5

In fact in the early morning of November 15th, after the police in riot gear cleared protesters out of Zuccotti Park, using excessive violence in several cases, OWS members objected to the tactic of rolling trash cans down the streets to block police, cleaned up the trash and chanted “we are a peaceful movement” (blog from NYU Local, 11/15)). Members of the OWS movement regularly say “I assure you, if voting worked, we would all be home right now” (Letter to *The Economist*, Nov. 5, p. 22).

In a functioning democracy, perhaps it should not be necessary to take to the streets, but Article I

of the Bill of Rights (1791) grants “the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

The objective of this movement is not to destroy capitalism, as the talk show hosts would have you believe. It is to examine how to make our government serve the people instead of just the 1 percent. I am part of the 99%, and most likely, so are you. If we do not speak up on behalf of ourselves, who will?

For Many, it's Membership Renewal Time

Thanks to the 258 members of your Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC), of whom 105 are new, or former members rejoining after some years.

For many of our members, memberships will expire on December 31, 2011. If you receive your newsletter by email, the text of the email will alert you if your membership expires at the end of this month. For those whose memberships expire at the end of January, 2012, we shall note this in the email. If you receive a printed copy, we'll note the expiration date on the address label.

PLEASE NOTE: If you renew before your membership expires, we will simply extend your membership by 12 months.

To renew, just print out the form below and send it to our PO box (shown on the form). If you have already renewed in response to a recent postcard from the State Democratic Party, there is no need to do anything further.

We would appreciate early renewals due to the extra expenses of the Recall Campaign. Indeed, an additional contribution would be especially appreciated.

Extra telephone lines, mailings, refreshments for volunteers are just a few of the costs of our recall activities that we must support. Your contribution will help us maintain a high level of activity in collecting the 4000 signatures we need.

Please help. You can contribute safely by credit card at [ActBlue](#) by clicking the blue button. Thank you!!



or Renew	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!	
Name(s) _____ _____ Address _____ _____ City/State _____ _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ This is a <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone Email _____ County: DOOR	Sign me up for: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior/student/limited income <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual general membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships) <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships) <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's) I would also like to join: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> LGTB Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Caucus Return to: Democratic Party of Door County P.O. Box 863 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235